WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing method of forming a histogram of an original image, setting an image processing condition in accordance with the formed histogram, and performing image processing for the original image, the method comprising the steps of:

judging from a shape of the formed histogram whether the original image is an image picture; and

if it is judged that the original image is not an image picture, not performing the image processing for the original image.

2. An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein:

a value of the formed histogram having a degree of generally 0 is counted; and

whether the original image is an image picture or not is judged from a count result.

3. An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein:

a highlight point and a shadow point are detected from the histogram; and

the image processing condition is set in accordance with the detected highlight and shadow points.

4. An image processing method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

inputting a drawing instruction for the original image; and

judging through analysis of the drawing instruction whether the original image is an image picture.

5. An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the image processing is performed independently for each original image constituting an input image.

6. An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein:

a highlight point and a shadow point are detected from the formed histogram; and

whether the original image is an image picture or not is judged from values of the detected highlight and shadow points.

7. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

forming a histogram of lightness of an original image;

setting a correction condition for lightness components in accordance with the histogram of

lightness;

setting a correction condition for hue components in accordance with the correction condition for lightness; and

correcting the original image in accordance with the correction conditions for lightness and hue.

8. An image processing method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

obtaining a highlight point and a shadow point in accordance with the histogram of lightness; and

correcting color fogging in accordance with the obtained highlight and shadow points.

9. An image processing method according to claim 7, wherein:

correct image data is subjected to a color correction in accordance with an output device; and

an image is output in accordance with the color corrected image data.

10. An image processing method of performing an image correction process in accordance with a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a histogram of hue of the original image;

judging from a shape of the formed histogram of

hue whether the original image is subjected to the image correction process; and

controlling the image correction process in accordance with a judged result.

11. An image processing method according to claim 10, wherein dispersed values of the histogram of hue are obtained and whether the image correction process is performed is judged from the dispersed values.

12. An image processing method according to claim 10, wherein a drawing instruction for the original image is input and whether the original image is an image picture is judged through analysis of the drawing instruction.

13. An image processing apparatus for forming a histogram of an original image, setting an image processing condition in accordance with the formed histogram, and performing image processing for the original image, the apparatus comprising:

means for judging from a shape of the formed histogram whether the original image is an image picture; and

means for not performing the image processing for the original image if it is judged that the original image is not an image picture.

14. A computer readable storage medium storing program steps for executing functions of an image processing apparatus for forming a histogram of an original image, setting an image processing condition in accordance with the formed histogram, and performing image processing for the original image, the program steps comprising:

judging from a shape of the formed histogram whether the original image is an image picture; and

not performing the image processing for the original image if it is judged that the original image is not an image picture.

15. An image processing apparatus comprising:

means for forming a histogram of lightness of an original image;

means for setting a correction condition for lightness components in accordance with the histogram of lightness;

means for setting a correction condition for hue components in accordance with the correction condition for lightness; and

means for correcting the original image in accordance with the correction conditions for lightness and hue.

16. A computer readable storage medium storing

program steps for executing functions of an image processing apparatus, the program steps comprising:

forming a histogram of lightness of an original image;

setting a correction condition for lightness components in accordance with the histogram of lightness;

setting a correction condition for hue components in accordance with the correction condition for lightness; and

correcting the original image in accordance with the correction conditions for lightness and hue.

17. An image processing apparatus for performing an image correction process in accordance with a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image, the apparatus comprising:

means for forming a histogram of hue of the original image;

means for judging from a shape of the formed histogram of hue whether the original image is subjected to the image correction process; and

means for controlling the image correction process in accordance with a judged result.

18. A computer readable storage medium storing program steps for executing functions of an image

processing apparatus for performing an image correction process in accordance with a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image, the program steps comprising:

forming a histogram of hue of the original image;

judging from a shape of the formed histogram of hue whether the original image is subjected to the image correction process; and

controlling the image correction process in accordance with a judged result.